



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 28, 2014

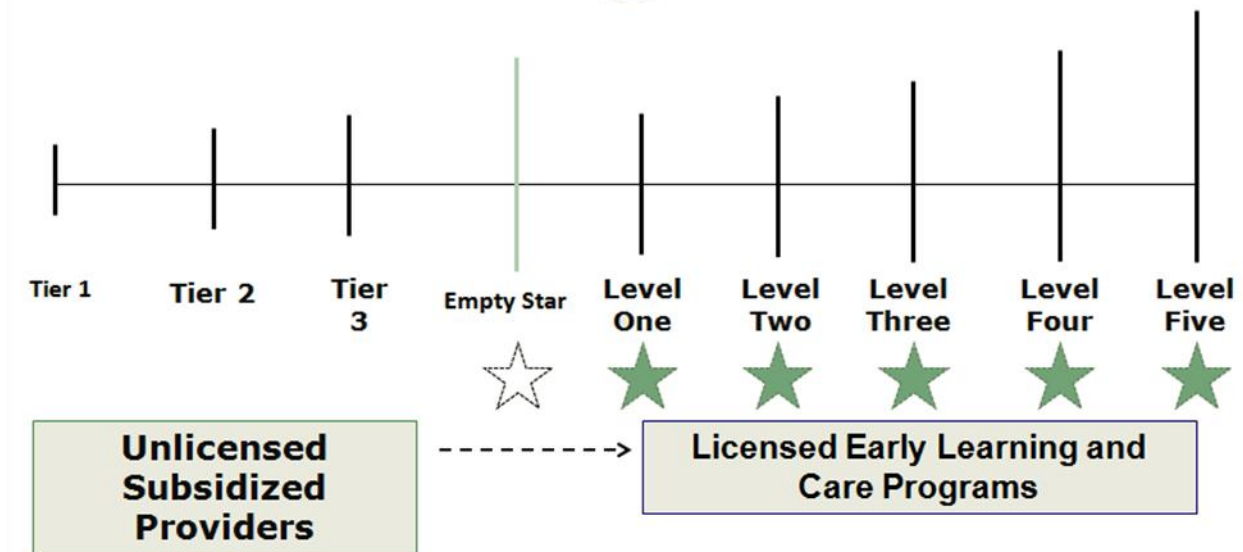
MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

Subject: Presentation on Great Start to Quality

Great Start to Quality is Michigan's tiered quality rating and improvement system. All licensed center-based programs and registered home-based programs participate in Great Start to Quality, including Great Start Readiness Programs, Head Start Programs, and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited programs. In addition, Michigan has created a quality improvement continuum for unlicensed subsidized providers, which allows them to progressively improve quality and potentially move towards licensure.



The Michigan Department of Education – Office of Great Start is the lead agency for Great Start to Quality. Great Start to Quality is funded with the state's federal Child Care and Development Fund and a supplemental state appropriation. The

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER
MICHELLE FECTEAU – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Office of Great Start contracts with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) to operate Great Start to Quality and oversee its implementation through ten regionally-based Great Start to Quality Resource Centers.

All licensed programs participate in Great Start to Quality at its foundational level. Star ratings are displayed at www.greatstartCONNECT.org, an online, searchable data base of all licensed programs designed for parents to search for child care and preschool programs that meet their needs. Ratings are posted as:

	Program meets licensing requirements.
	Program meets licensing requirements and is participating in Great Start to Quality.
	Program demonstrates quality across <u>some standards</u> .
	Program demonstrates quality across <u>several standards</u> .
	Program demonstrates quality across <u>almost all standards</u> . Program demonstrates high quality.
	Program demonstrates highest quality.

Great Start to Quality is based on program quality standards that are designed to help programs progressively increase their level of quality. The program quality standards are aligned with the state's early learning standards (*Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten* and *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs*) all of which have been approved by the State Board of Education and have been cross-walked for alignment with Head Start performance standards and the NAEYC accreditation. Great Start program quality standards include: professional development and staff qualifications, administration and management, family and community partnerships, environment, curriculum and instruction.

Program quality levels, or Star ratings, are determined through a verification of the program's self-assessment of its quality. Programs that are verified at the highest quality star levels also participate in a Program Quality Assessment®, which is an observation-based tool.